

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 16, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 141

**Introduced by Assembly Member Blakeslee
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Fletcher)**

March 3, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 141—Relative to Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 141, as amended, Blakeslee. Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

This measure would proclaim May 19, 2010, as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Liver cancer and liver disease related to hepatitis
2 B and C are two of the leading killers in California; and
3 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the most prevalent blood-borne
4 disease in the United States and in California; and
5 WHEREAS, Early detection of hepatitis B or C infection
6 promotes effective management or treatment of these infections,
7 preventing disability, loss of productivity and income, and allowing
8 people to live full, satisfying, and productive lives; and
9 WHEREAS, Undetected and untreated hepatitis B or C infection
10 can lead to disability or death; and
11 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 500,000 Californians
12 with chronic hepatitis C infection do not know they are infected,

1 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,
2 or liver failure; and

3 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 125,000 California
4 residents with hepatitis B infection do not know they are infected,
5 and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer,
6 or liver failure; and

7 WHEREAS, Untreated hepatitis B and C are the leading causes
8 of liver failure requiring liver transplant; and

9 WHEREAS, There is a vaccine for the prevention of hepatitis
10 B, the first proven, low-cost vaccination against any form of cancer
11 made available to Americans; and

12 WHEREAS, The cost of hospitalizations for liver cancer and
13 liver disease reached \$2 billion in California in 2007, mostly paid
14 for by tax-supported public health insurers; and

15 WHEREAS, Hepatitis awareness education campaigns and
16 accessible screening for hepatitis B and C, along with appropriate
17 treatment, can reduce the damage from hepatitis B and C viral
18 infection to individuals and to our community, financially, as well
19 as physically and emotionally; now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
22 hereby proclaims May 15 19, 2010, as Viral Hepatitis Awareness
23 Day; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
25 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.